

Course Title	United States Culture and Language CL102USA		Instructor(s)	Rebecca Schmidt
			E-mail	rschmidt@miu.ac.jp
Class Style	Lecture	Office Hours		Mondays 2.00 pm-5.00 pm Other times by appointment (please email) You may email questions anytime
Track	N/A	Mode of Instruction		Solo
Credits	2	Allocated Year		2026
Active Learning	Critical thinking; Cross-cultural understanding; Groupwork; Journal writing	Compulsory or Elective		Elective
Course Overview	This course is designed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of American culture and language. Through interactive lessons, discussions, and real-life experiences, students will gain valuable insights into The United States' rich heritage, traditions, people, and society.			
Course Objectives	By the end of this course, students will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate a basic understanding of American culture, including history, geography, population and culture, famous and influential people, holidays, places, food, and entertainment. Improve 4 English language skills of Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking. Encourage critical thinking and cross-cultural understanding. 			
Course Schedule	No	Contents	Homework	
	1	Introduction to US Culture	Reading: Intro: "What is Culture"	
	2	Introduction to US Culture	Reading: Unit 1: "From Sea to Shining Sea" Reading Unit 3: "Bright lights, Big Cities"	
	3	American History	Reading: Unit 2: "The Original 13 Colonies" Reading Unit 5: "Columbus and the New World"	
	4	American History	Reading Unit 6: "Native Americans"	
	5	American History	Reading Unit 7: "The USA is Born" Reading Unit 9 "The Wild West"	
	6	American History Quiz #1	Review of US history Units 1- 9 (minus units 4 and 8)	
	7	Geography: National Parks	Reading Unit 4: "Alaska and Hawaii" Reading Unit 17: "The Grand Canyon"	
	8	Geography and Culture: Significant Cities and Places	Reading Unit 12: "Washington DC" Reading Unit 14: "Motor City"	
	9	Geography and Culture: Significant Cities and Places	Reading Unit 15: "Hollywood" Reading Unit 18: "Silicon Valley"	
	10	Society and People	Reading Unit 10: "The American Century" Reading Unit 11: "We the People"	
	11	Famous People	Reading Unit 8: "Abraham Lincoln" Reading Unit 13 "Martin Luther King Jr"	
	12	Culture: Food and holidays	Reading Unit 16: "Burgers and Fries" Reading Unit 19: "American Holidays"	
	13	Future	Reading Unit 20: "The USA in the 21 st Century"	
	14	Review and Final Project Presentation Prep	Presentations on one American Culture Topic	
15	Quiz #2 Project Presentation Prep	Units 10-20 (including Units 4 and 8) Presentations on one American Culture Topic		

Grading	<p>Class participation and engagement: 10%</p> <p>Homework assignments (textbook): 15%</p> <p>Journal Entries: 25%</p> <p>Quizzes: 25%</p> <p>Final project or presentation: 25%</p>
Textbooks	<p>Introduction to United States Culture by Eric J. Miller (ISBN: 9781530715725) is a low intermediate textbook for English language classes—both EFL and ESL. The textbook introduces students to many essential components of US culture and provides an interesting variety of activities for active participation in the classroom. Tasks in this book cover the four language skills—reading, writing, listening, and speaking. <i>Introduction to United States Culture</i> features units related to geography, history, holidays, food, entertainment, famous personalities, and more. Each unit contains images and questions that prepare students for learning about the topic. Reading passages are supported by comprehension questions and vocabulary tasks. Each unit ends with an activity designed to get students exploring the unit topic further. Many of the activities encourage cross-cultural exchange. While learning about American culture, students will also consider similar aspects of their own cultures. Independent users can also easily use and enjoy these interesting and thought-provoking contents about United States culture.</p>
References	<p>CEFR Practical Resources Page https://www.coe.int/en/web/common-european-framework-reference-languages/practical-resources</p>
NOTES	<p>MATERIALS REQUIRED: Please bring to each class</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B5 Notebook (teacher provides) • Folder for handouts • Pens, pencils and highlighters • Smart phone, tablet, or laptop to access online platforms <p>STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You are expected to inform the instructor in advance if you must miss a class. If you miss a class, you are expected to obtain missing materials and talk to other students or the instructor before the next class. Being absent the previous class is not an excuse for not completing assignments. Late homework assignments or missed tests will be deducted 20%. You will have two weeks to complete them. After two weeks the assignment will become a zero. • Excused absence from class (in case of illness or family emergency) requires a written notice from a doctor or other appropriate individuals within 7 days. All other absences from class will be considered “unexcused”. • If you are not in the classroom when the instructors take attendance, you will be marked as late. 3 late attendances = 1 absence. 30 min late = 1 absence. Sleeping or excessive cell phone use will count as an absence. You will fail the course if you miss more than 5 classes. This includes late arrivals and early departures from class. • Assignment completion: It is your responsibility to attend all classes, to participate actively as a member of the class, and to complete and hand in all assigned work as required to pass this course. <p>LEARNING ENVIRONMENT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will make efforts to address the different learning styles of students in the class. There will be a combination of whole-class activities, individually based activities, small group work, and lecture. • Students and instructors will work together to create a safe learning environment for everyone. Harassment or bullying will not be tolerated. <p>REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is our goal that all students have an effective learning environment. Please let us know all necessary accommodations needed to make the class fully accessible. <p>The instructors may to make changes to this syllabus at any time.</p>